



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Reviewed by

[Signature]
General Manager

Date

8/8/07

DATE: August 8, 2007
 TO: General Manager
 FROM: Senior Engineer
 SUBJECT: Contribution to SWANA's Applied Research Foundation

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors authorize General Manager to make annual contributions to the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) Applied Research Foundation (ARF), not to exceed \$5,000 annually.

BACKGROUND

The SWANA Applied Research Foundation (ARF) was formed in 2001 and is now beginning its Year 7 Applied Research Program. The goal of the ARF is to support SWANA's mission of "advancing the practice of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste" through the conduct of collectively-funded and defined applied research projects that address pressing solid waste issues identified by the ARF subscribers. The ARF is funded by member jurisdictions and other organizations which contribute an annual subscription fee that amounts to a "penny per ton" of the solid waste collected or managed annually through their systems.

ARF subscribers belong to one or more of four research groups that direct the ARF's research activities:

1. Recycling (Including Waste Reduction and Composting)
2. Collection
3. Waste-To-Energy (and Other Recovery Systems)
4. Disposal

The District, demonstrating its commitment and leadership in the industry, has been a founding member of the Disposal Research Group since it began in 2001.

ROLES OF THE APPLIED RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The primary roles of the ARF include the following:

- Conduct cutting edge research on topics identified and selected by ARF subscribers.
- Provide scientific input on key policy issues.
- Collect statistically-valid performance and cost data on solid waste systems and services.
- Provide up-to-date and accurate information to outside organizations.
- Provide input to regulatory agencies.
- Capture and channel expertise of SWANA solid waste managers.
- Provide managers with needed information on a timely basis.
- Support SWANA's goal of advancing the practice.

The FY/06 and FY/07 research topics for the Disposal and Recycling Groups included the following:

- Economics of Public Sector Solid Waste Systems.
- Performance Benchmarking of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Landfills.
- Clogging of Leachate Collection Systems.
- Food Waste Composting For Multi-Family Residences.
- Effective Policies and Programs for C&D Recycling.
- Effective Incentives for Urban Recycling.

BENEFITS TO THE DISTRICT

It is critically important that solid waste management policies be based on sound scientific principles and data. A major goal of the ARF is to provide such scientific input to policy-makers and decision-makers. Another primary goal of the ARF is to fill the information gaps of solid waste managers who need timely scientific and technical information to make informed decisions and to effectively manage their systems.

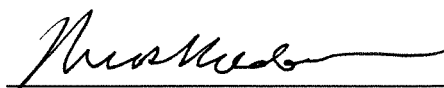
In addition to spawning the development of workshops and training courses, the ARF has made all 17 of the research reports that have been published to date by the ARF available to SWANA members free of charge or for a nominal price. Examples of research reports that have considerable value to the District include:

- The Solid Waste Manager's Guide to the Bioreactor Landfill (2002).
- The Effectiveness of MSW Landfill in Controlling Releases of Heavy Metal to the Environment (2003).
- Landfill Airspace Utilization: Measurement and Management (2005).
- Hurricane Katrina Disaster Debris Management: Lessons Learned from State and Local Governments (2005).

It should be noted that the Landfill Airspace Utilization study, which I suggested, and was subsequently selected by ARF subscribers, has been a very useful tool for the District in tracking our landfill compaction performance and in projecting our remaining landfill site life.

CONCLUSION

The current fiscal year annual subscription fee for the District is \$3,242, based on 324,200 tons at \$0.01 per ton. Staff recommends that the Board continue its commitment to the ARF and authorize the expenditure of \$3,242 for the current year subscription fee, and authorize the General Manager to make future annual contributions, not to exceed \$5,000.



Richard D. Shedden